kms. on the Ernakulam-Trivandrum section.

(ii) Through rail renewal on 3^0 and sharper curves has been completed. So far about 40 kms. of through rail renewal has also been completed.

(iii) Examination of rolling stock has been further intensified.

(iv) Administrative machinery to oversee the improvements being carried out has been strengthened.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Railway Line from Bilara to Ber in Rajasthan

10. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to lay a rail line from Bilara to Ber in Rajasthan and to introduce a fast train between Jodhpur and Udaipur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Metro Railway System between Madras Central and Luz Corner

11. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Metro Railway system which was planned and approved from Madras Central to Luz Corner has not been progressing due to the controversy created between the Ministry of Railways and the Tamil Nadu Government; and

(b) by when the said project would be completed and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) This would depend upon the availability of funds in the coming years.

Complaints of Loss of Luggage and Goods in the Railways

12. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received from passengers about the loss of luggage and goods during the current financial year, zone-wise;

(b) what is the total amount paid by the Railways as claims for the loss of luggage and goods during the same period; and

(c) what are the corresponding figures of complaints received and the amount of claims paid by the Railways during the last two financial years, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 2]. Figures for claims paid on passenger luggage and goods are not maintained separately.

International Conferences held in India

13. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4316 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st September, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the number of International conferences held in New Delhi during the period between July and December, 1988 alongwith the number of participating countries and the number of delegates;

(b) what was the amount of total expenditure incurred on these conferences;

(c) what was the number of international conferences held in other countries attended by India alongwith the number of delegates during 1987 and 1988; and

(d) what is the total expenditure spent on attending these conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Canteens in Delhi

14. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the numbe of railway canteens being run at various places in Delhi/New Delhi, alongwith the names of the places;

(b) what is the number of complaints received during the last two years, canteen-wise;

(c) for what period a manager/incharge is normally posted at railway canteens;

(d) what are the details of canteens where managers/incharges have overstayed; and

(e) what steps are being taken to transfer them to other places and also to improve the services at various railway canteens in Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Railways run three Refreshment rooms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazarat Nizamuddin Railway stations, and six units in the Parliament House Complex in Delhi area.

(b) Number of complaints received in the last two years 1987 and 1988 is as under:-

Delhi	-	5
New Delhi	-	44
Hazarat Nizamuddin	-	31
Parliament House Complex	-	6

(c) No specific period has been prescribed.

(d) Does not arise

(e) No transfar is proposed at present. Steps taken to further improve catering services at various refreshment rooms including those in Delhi and New Delhi include inspections by officers and supervisors, use of modern kitchen equipments, use of standard quality raw-material, training to staff etc.

Inadequate road facilities

15. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance of both the National and State Highways in the country has been very poor which has led to substantial increase in vehicle user cost; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Constitutionally, the Government of India are primarily responsbile for roads declared as National Highways. State Highways are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Apart from inadequate maintenance, deficiencies in road width and crust thickness in relation to traffic demand also contribute to increase in vehicle user costs. Efforts are being made to provide as much funds as possible for maintenance and development of National Highways keeping in